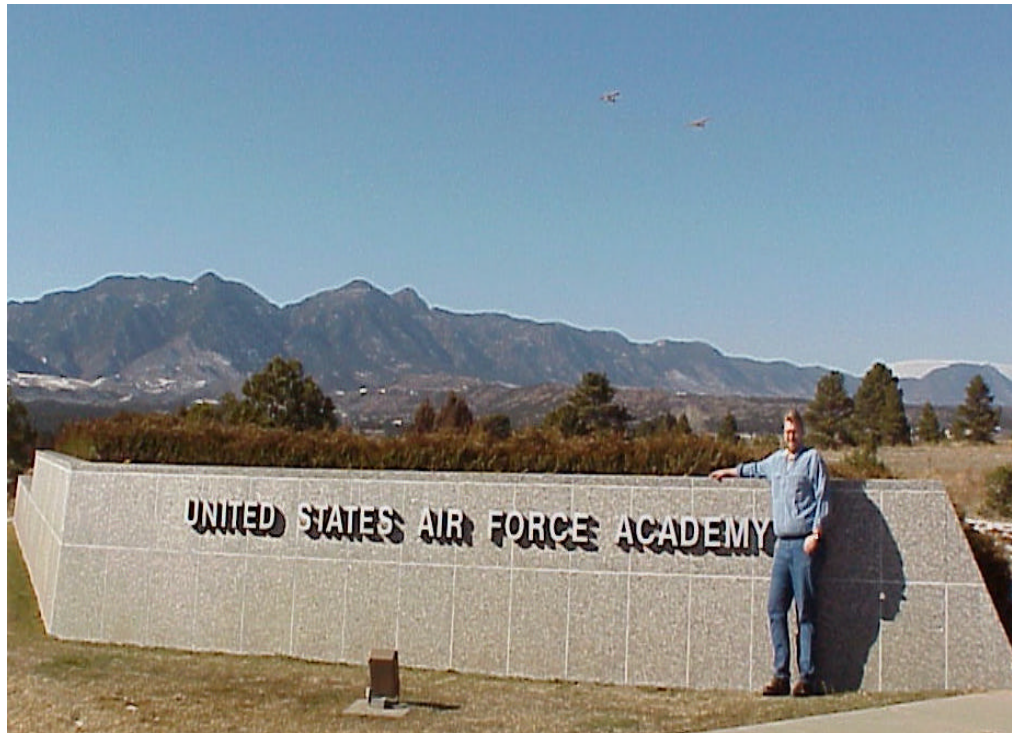


**1999 SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AWARD
Pollution Prevention Individual Award**

**ROBERT TOMLINSON
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY**



Mr. Robert Tomlinson changed the way business is done at the Air Force Academy by incorporating pollution prevention into every aspect of performing the mission at the Academy. He championed new initiatives that drastically reduced chemical usage, increased the use of recycled content and other renewable materials, promoted sustainable design, and helped the Academy make big gains in recycling. His actions directly lowered volatile air emissions, slashed solid and hazardous wastes, and lessened the use of non-renewable virgin materials. He partnered with his counterparts in military installations, with the community, and with regulators to share ideas and to join resources to save money. Mr. Robert Tomlinson's contributions have greatly benefited the environment, the Air Force Academy, his local community, and the Department of Defense.

Supporting the U. S. Air Force Academy Mission

The Academy's primary mission is to inspire and develop outstanding young men and women to become Air Force Officers with the knowledge, character, and discipline motivated to lead the world's greatest aerospace force in service to the nation.

- ❖ The Academy encompasses over 19,000 acres of pristine natural environment at the base of the Rampart Range of the Rocky Mountains in one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in the nation
- ❖ Its diverse mission support activities include military training, academic laboratories, airfield maintenance, facilities maintenance, and athletic activities.
- ❖ The resident population is approximately 9,000 and is comprised of 4,000 cadets plus preparatory school students, military personnel and their family members, civilian employees, tenants, and contractors. Includes 160 miles of roads, and 8 million square feet of buildings.
- ❖ Includes the busiest visual flight reference airfield in the world
- ❖ Conducts the largest and most varied training program in the Air Force
- ❖ It is one of Colorado's top visitor destinations, hosting up to 1 million visitors each year

From working with maintenance activities to ordering the least hazardous materials able to do the job, to serving as a guest lecturer on pollution prevention to cadet classes, to finding new ways to eliminate solid and hazardous waste, Bob Tomlinson has made the Academy a cleaner, safer place to work and live.



Colonel John H. Bonapart, Jr., 10th Air Base Wing Commander, is an ardent supporter of Bob's pollution

"I tapped Bob to serve as the coordinator for our Hazardous Materials Management Team because of his contagious motivation to work across all mission elements to reduce the use of hazardous materials. He has kept me and the rest of the Academy community involved in material substitution and computerized tracking improvements. His commitment to our recycling and green purchasing programs can't be beat."

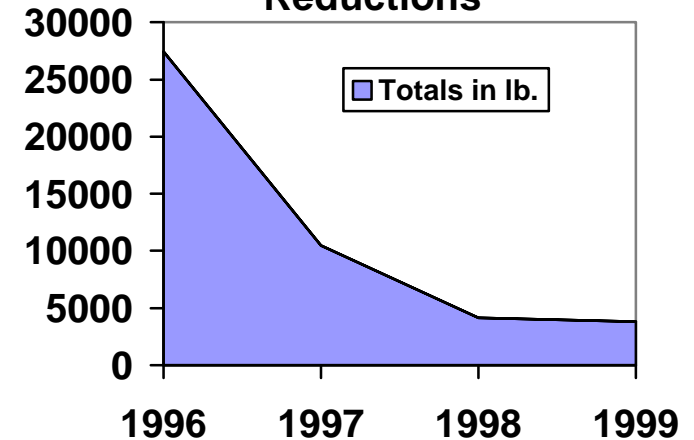
- Colonel John H. Bonapart, Jr., 10th Air Base Wing Commander
United States Air Force Academy

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Reducing Pollution Through Smart Material Substitutions

- ❖ **Slashed hazardous materials usage.** To reach the next level of high-hanging fruit”reductions in chemical usage, Mr. Tomlinson devised a prioritized listing of the Academy’s Top 20”chemicals to target for reduction. His unique approach prioritized hazardous materials based on the risks they posed to worker health and safety, as well as to the environment. As substitutes were found, the user shop was given an opportunity to test the material. If the material did not meet the shop’s performance requirements, Bob and his Hazardous Materials Management Team continued searching for a suitable substitute.
 - ❖ This program reduced Top 20”chemical usage from 10,454 pounds in 1997 to 3,843 pounds in 1999 (a 65% reduction!).
- ❖ **Found innovative ways to perform Pollution Prevention Opportunity Assessments.** To reduce the growing costs of conducting opportunity assessments by contract, Bob found an innovative approach. Realizing the value of partnerships, he approached pollution prevention managers from five area installations and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and persuaded them to perform joint pollution prevention opportunity assessments, using experts from the military and regulatory agencies. After selling his plan in Colorado, he worked with the Army’s Western Regional Environmental Office to convince the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence and the Army Environmental Center to support the following joint assessments:
 - ❖ A complete evaluation of vehicle maintenance operations at the Academy, Fort Carson, and Buckley Air National Guard (1998)

USAFA "Top 20" Chemical Reductions



“Bob has been an active participant in our Colorado Environmental Network organization since its inception. Bob played an integral role in helping to plan and implement pollution prevention opportunity assessments of vehicle maintenance operations, recycling programs, and aircraft maintenance at Colorado military installations in 1998 and 1999.”

- Gerald F. Owens, DoD Regional Environmental Coordinator
Western Regional Environmental Office

Pollution Prevention Individual Award: Bob Tomlinson, US Air Force Academy

- ❖ Base Recycling Operations at the Academy, Fort Carson, and Peterson and Schriever Air Force Bases (1998)
- ❖ Aircraft Maintenance Activities at the Academy, Fort Carson, Peterson Air Force Base, Buckley Air National Guard, and at Eagle County Airfield (a joint effort with the private sector!) (1999)

The joint initiatives saved the Academy at least \$90,000 dollars in contract fees and generated an estimated savings for all participating agencies of \$300,000 during the last 2 years! Recommendations implemented at the Academy included:

- ❖ Eight recommendations from the vehicle maintenance assessment
 - ❖ Eliminated one hazardous waste satellite accumulation point
 - ❖ Decreased volatile air emissions by 2,000 lbs. per year
- ❖ Two recommendations from the recycling assessment
 - ❖ Initiated recycling at all Air Force home football games
 - ❖ Partnered with the other military academies to expand recycling in cadet dormitories
- ❖ **Making Childcare Facilities Safer.** Bob Tomlinson teamed with the Academy's Child Development Centers to make the centers as safe as possible for the staff and children. He reviewed the centers' cleaning products and found lower toxicity cleaners that still met the centers' strict cleanliness requirements. He also worked with childcare staff to improve their hazardous materials storage practices.
- ❖ **Affirmative Procurement Subcommittee.** To meet the growing requirements of the executive order for Greening the Government, Bob Tomlinson led a charge to reduce the purchase of virgin materials. He convinced the Academy's two senior and mid-level environmental management advisory committees, the Environmental Leadership Council (ELC) and the Environmental Protection Committee (EPC), to



A collection container from a fuel vent collects fuel that is reused in a small riding tractor. One of the “best” practices identified in the joint airfield PPOAs



Customer Assistance Visit at the Child Development Center. Bob performing Pollution Prevention training with one of the staff members

Pollution Prevention Individual Award: Bob Tomlinson, US Air Force Academy

form an Affirmative Procurement Subcommittee. Mr. Tomlinson was appointed the committee's co-chair. To launch the committee, he organized and hosted a joint workshop with neighboring military bases and invited EPA Region VIII's affirmative procurement program manager to help the bases institute more effective green purchasing programs. The Committee manages the affirmative procurement program on the Academy and finds innovative ways to promote and procure environmentally preferable products, while staying within tight budget restraints.

PROCESS MODIFICATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS

- ❖ **Changing the way to do business.** Bob Tomlinson helped establish the Colorado Interagency Pollution Prevention Network in 1997 to promote pollution prevention information and resource sharing. The Network is made up of environmental managers from the Air Force Academy, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, EPA Region VIII, Fort Carson, Peterson AFB, Shriever AFB, Buckley ANG, Pueblo Chemical Depot, and the Army's Western Regional Environmental Office. Through the vibrant exchange of ideas, partnering, and joint pollution prevention opportunity assessments, Network members saved over \$500,000 during the past 3 years.
 - ❖ Joint opportunity assessments - \$330,000
 - ❖ Joint training initiatives, including the award-winning population prevention video project with EPA Region VIII - \$70,000
 - ❖ Sharing of recycling equipment - \$50,000
 - ❖ Composting initiatives - \$75,000



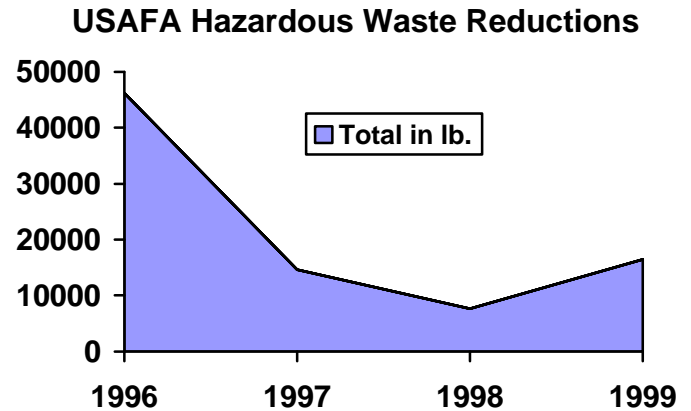
Through the Colorado P2 Network, the Air Force Academy and Peterson Air Force Base signed a cooperative memorandum of agreement to compost Peterson's yard wastes at the Academy's composting facility, saving Peterson \$25,000 per year.

“The success of our interagency Pollution Prevention Partnership depends on the momentum generated by each of our members. Bob’s involvement in the interagency site assistance visits was unbeatable and is one example of how dedicated he is to pollution prevention,”

- Dianne Thiel, Federal Facilities Coordinator,
EPA Region VIII

Pollution Prevention Individual Award: Bob Tomlinson, US Air Force Academy

- ❖ **Improving the hazardous waste turn in process.** After discovering an upward trend in hazardous waste disposal, Bob uncovered that some still-usable hazardous materials were being turned in as hazardous waste. Bob championed changes to the hazardous waste turn in process. In the old process, the user of the hazardous material decided if a material could be reused or should be turned in as hazardous waste. Under the new process Bob implemented, the decision is taken out of the hands of the user and transferred to the organization that knows if other users on the Academy can use it--the HazMat Pharmacy. The HazMat Pharmacy tries to find a user for the material to avoid disposal. This new process will reduce hazardous waste disposal and save disposal costs.
- ❖ **Speeding up the hazardous material authorization process.** The needs of the customer were not being met. It was taking an average of 5 days to approve individual hazardous materials use requests. Mr. Tomlinson automated the approval workflow process using the existing hazardous material tracking system.
 - ❖ The approval authorization process was slashed from 5 days to 1 day!; emergency requests are approved within 1 hour
 - ❖ Added benefits include less paper generation, eliminating the need to hand carry requests, and better data reliability
- ❖ **A true “one stop” Pollution Prevention Plan.** Mr. Tomlinson led a huge undertaking to combine three separate management action plans into a single “one-stop-shop” plan to coordinate all pollution prevention efforts. The Academy had a Pollution Prevention Management Plan, a Solid Waste Management Plan, and a Hazardous Waste Management Plan that covered hazardous waste minimization. Each of the plans were updated by contract every 3 years at a cost of \$30,000 to \$60,000 each. The new Compliance Assurance through Pollution Prevention Plan Bob developed incorporates management strategies for affirmative



Bob Tomlinson trains HazMat Pharmacy personnel on the automated hazardous materials reauthorization process he developed

Pollution Prevention Individual Award: Bob Tomlinson, US Air Force Academy

procurement, solid and hazardous waste reduction, construction/demolition debris diversion, and hazardous materials management. The plan includes 26 pollution prevention success stories Bob wrote, documenting our most successful pollution prevention initiatives. The success stories were incorporated into the Colorado Success Story Compendium, a catalogue of successful initiatives compiled by the Colorado P2 Network.

- ❖ **Improving recycling and other solid waste diversion programs.** To increase recycling and solid waste diversion, Bob tackled the most complex solid waste problem—construction and demolition (C&D) debris. He conducted extensive research on local C&D recycling avenues and completed an innovative C&D specification guiding Academy contractors to recycle C&D wastes. He also initiated tracking of C&D waste volumes and recycling. He worked with the recycling manager to expand recycling opportunities on the Academy, among these he helped begin an annual phone book recycling campaign and recycling at all Air Force home football games and other athletic events.
- ❖ **Hazardous materials management team.** Once all organizations were enrolled in the HazMat Pharmacy process, the next level was to optimize the program to gain the greatest return. Bob established an Academy hazardous materials management team (HMMT) in 1997. Membership on the HMMT includes representatives from environmental management, occupational health and safety organizations, supply, and contracting. The HMMT has helped solidify hazardous material management efforts and improved communications between all organizations. The HMMT reports quarterly to the EPC on ongoing pollution prevention initiatives.
- ❖ **Shop Assistance Visits.** Bob launched a customer assistance visit program to improve communication between hazardous materials users and the HMMT, and to conduct shop-level pollution prevention



The phone book recycling campaign is a huge success!



The customer assistance visits help hazardous materials users understand compliance requirements and “just-in-

Pollution Prevention Individual Award: Bob Tomlinson, US Air Force Academy

training geared to each shop's activities. At least once every 2 years, HMMT members conduct site assistance visits to all shops (approximately 100). The team members review the shop's hazardous authorization list and usage reports, and work with shop personnel to establish the shop's hazardous materials requirements to complete the mission. As part of the shop site assistance visits, Mr. Tomlinson provides shop level pollution prevention training. Bob trains shop personnel to find less hazardous substitutes, identify best management practices, and to properly use and store hazardous materials.

IMPROVED MATERIAL MANAGEMENT

- ❖ **Hazardous material reauthorization program.** Bob Tomlinson implemented a hazardous material reauthorization program to provide HMMT members recurring opportunities to review hazardous materials usage, search for less hazardous substitutes, ensure compliance with safety standards, and help shops establish optimum stock levels. All hazardous materials used at the Academy are re-authorized every 2 years. Prior to Bob's innovation, hazardous materials were approved for an indefinite period. The absence of a process requiring periodic reviews meant hazardous materials were sometimes stockpiled, many duplicate products were ordered to do the same job, and up-to-date health and safety controls were not incorporated. The reauthorization program covers all 7,000 active hazardous materials authorizations! This Herculean effort has eliminated 445 hazardous chemicals and cut 1,555 authorizations.
- ❖ **Streamlining purchases of hazardous materials.** To reduce inventory levels, promote "just-in-time" ordering, and meet the unique chemical requirements of a major college, Mr. Tomlinson masterminded a program to purchase hazardous materials using the government credit card purchasing program (IMPAC). To implement his program, Bob had to find a way to maintain the Academy's HazMat Pharmacy stringent tracking and authorization requirements. Under the

"Bob Tomlinson's active involvement in our operations has helped make our athletics support shops a safer place to work. His hands-on approach with the customer assistance visits helped us institute several pollution prevention initiatives."

- Tina Springer, Athletic Department Safety Manager
U.S. Air Force Academy



Because of its diverse mission activities, including academic laboratories, the Academy tracks and manages 7,000 different chemicals at any one time!

Pollution Prevention Individual Award: Bob Tomlinson, US Air Force Academy

old process, organizations could either buy through the supply system or maintain a paperwork intensive blanket purchase agreement (BPA) with an approved vendor. Bob solved the problem by devising two ways for customers to purchase items using the IMPAC system. Major users of hazardous materials, such as the Chemistry and Biology Departments, set up an organization-funded IMPAC account listing authorized HMMT representatives who can make purchases. Orders are then placed in accordance with the HazMat Pharmacy process to ensure materials are authorized and appropriately tracked to maintain regulatory and pollution prevention documentation. Emergency orders from smaller organizations are approved on-the-spot at the HazMat Pharmacy with a letter of justification, and the requester is authorized to make the purchase on their organization's credit card. Following the emergency, users are required to bring in the material to update the hazardous materials tracking system. This approach has:

- ❖ Eliminated time-intensive blanket purchase agreements
- ❖ Minimized stockpiling
- ❖ Reduced purchase quantities and container size
- ❖ Saved \$50K in FY99 by providing authorized users the flexibility to buy from the lowest-priced vendor

IMPROVING COMPLIANCE WITH EXECUTIVE ORDER 12856 AND EMERGENCY PLANNING AND COMMUNITY-RIGHT-TO-KNOW ACT (EPCRA)

- ❖ **Reducing EPCRA-reportable chemicals.** To meet the reduction goals in Executive order 12856, Mr. Tomlinson spearheaded efforts to reduce Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) reportable chemicals to zero and reduce TIER II reportable chemicals by 30 by 1999. He succeeded!

“The Chemistry Department has found the streamlined IMPAC purchase system to be a quick and efficient means for ordering chemicals. Expedient procurement of chemicals is often crucial to our mission. Bob Tomlinson’s implementation of this program reduced down time and chemical storage, and saved us money.”

- Jane Johnson, Department of Chemistry
U.S. Air Force Academy



Shop personnel, such as these workers using water-based adhesives, are actively involved in testing less hazardous materials in a continuing effort to reduce compliance requirements, protect the environment, and make the workplace safer

Pollution Prevention Individual Award: Bob Tomlinson, US Air Force Academy

- ❖ Through aggressive material substitutions, he eliminated TRI reporting
- ❖ TIER II reportable chemicals were reduced from 15 in 1996 to 8 in 1999!
- ❖ **Closing the loopholes.** To comply with EPCRA requirements, the HMMT needed to capture data on contractor usage of hazardous materials on the Academy. Bob wrote a comprehensive contract specification and worked tirelessly with engineering and contracting personnel to require contractors working on the Academy to report hazardous materials usage through the HazMat Pharmacy. Bob closed a major loophole and made it possible for the Academy to meet EPCRA requirements. An added benefit is that HMMT personnel have an opportunity to disapprove the use of extremely hazardous materials.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

- ❖ **Being a good neighbor.** When Penrose-St. Francis Hospitals, a local non-profit hospital network, needed an expert to provide training on environmental sustainability, they turned to Bob Tomlinson. Bob joined with their Health Improvement Incentive Program and provided two training presentations to over 250 employees. His presentation was so well received that he was brought back so his talk could be videotaped for future training. His training covered energy conservation, recycling, green purchasing, hazardous materials management, and sustainability.
- ❖ **HazMat Pharmacy Guides.** Through his frequent contact with base organizations, Bob saw the need to develop a concise HazMat Pharmacy guide to help hazardous material users understand the HazMat Pharmacy process. Together with HMMT members, he



Bob's day-to-day contact with hazardous materials users helps him understand their requirements and suggest improvements

"Thank you so much for your presentation on 'The Ins and Outs of Recycling'. I received very positive feedback on the content of the presentation and the ideas you shared with our staff. I appreciate your time organizing and presenting the latest in pollution prevention and sustainability to our employees."

- Susan Wedel, Health Improvement Incentive Program Coordinator
Penrose-St. Francis Hospitals

Pollution Prevention Individual Award: Bob Tomlinson, US Air Force Academy

completed a HazMat Pharmacy Customer Guide and a HazMat Pharmacy Reference Guide.

- ❖ **Partnering with others.** Bob helped Fort Carson, a neighboring major Army installation, become one of the first Army installations to implement the Hazardous Material Pharmacy concept. Bob's expertise and the lessons he shared were instrumental in turning Fort Carson's HazMat Cell into one of the Army's most successful pharmacies. Next, he was called into action by Air Force Space Command (AFSPC) when they were faced with a major dilemma. AFSPC was the last major command still operating a customized hazardous materials tracking system (versus the Air Force-approved Environmental Management Information System (EMIS)). Bob helped AFSPC evaluate both systems and convinced them to convert to EMIS. His experience with both systems and in-depth knowledge of hazardous materials tracking requirements helped AFSPC avoid the cost of outside consultants.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY

- ❖ **Road de-icing operations.** Mr. Tomlinson served on a Tiger Team formed to reduce the adverse effects caused by snow and ice removal operations. Tree mortality was on the rise from the use of a magnesium chloride solution used for road de-icing. The team developed a new approach to solve this problem by improving application practices to reduce the amount of chemical applied, controlling where deicers were used, and employing sodium acetate in fragile areas. Although the new product is much more expensive, by placing less of the product on the roads and using the snow plows more efficiently, the Academy reduced tree and vegetation damage and is expected to reduce chemical usage by 50 percent.

“Bob’s expertise on how to establish the HAZMAT Pharmacy concept and his willingness to provide us his insights and lessons learned were integral to the successful establishment of Fort Carson’s HAZMAT Cell”

- Kelly O’Neil, Pollution Prevention Manager,
Fort Carson Directorate of Environmental Compliance

“Bob’s expertise in pollution prevention and hazardous materials management helped Air Force Space Command (AFSPC) save \$200,000 in FY99. He helped with the final decision to convert to the new tracking system and we haven’t regretted it.”

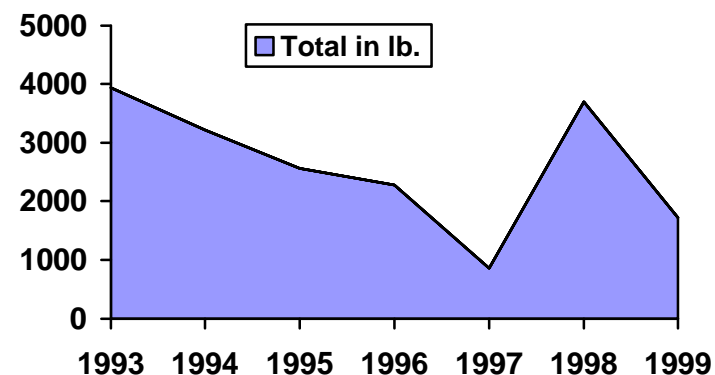
- Dan Rodriguez, REM, Pollution Prevention Manager
United States Air Force Space Command



Pollution Prevention Individual Award: Bob Tomlinson, US Air Force Academy

- ❖ **Controlling noxious weeds.** Bob championed an initiative to reduce chemical pesticide use by means of biological controls. Hardy varieties of regulated noxious weeds were thriving on the Academy and were being treated with increasing amounts of chemical pesticides. Bob teamed with the Academy's natural resources managers, Texas A&M University researchers, and with Fort Carson and US Fish and Wildlife Service entomologists to attack the noxious weeds using carefully acclimated noxious weed-devouring insects. The project is still in its infancy; however, early results are showing the insects indeed can control noxious weeds without the use of chemicals. By working with other partners, costs and monitoring requirements are shared and reduced for all participants, providing yet another example of the benefits Bob is providing through his active involvement in partnering with others to leverage resources.
- ❖ **Replacing chlorine with calcium hypochlorite.** The wastewater treatment plant used highly toxic chlorine gas as part of the disinfection process. The use of chlorine gas required cumbersome personal protective equipment, extensive safety training, and meant an increased risk to the Academy every time a cylinder of chlorine gas was handled. Bob targeted chlorine reduction as a priority and worked with wastewater treatment plant personnel and with HMMT members to find a safer substitute. The team replaced chlorine with calcium hypochlorite. A \$300 modification to the existing system was the only added cost, but the replacement generated many benefits:
 - ❖ Eliminated the need to perform a risk management assessment
 - ❖ Chlorine gas, an extremely hazardous substance, is no longer stored on the base, greatly reducing liability and risk
 - ❖ Cut chemical use from 9,000 pounds of chlorine to 3,500 pounds of calcium hypochlorite

USAFA Pesticide Reductions

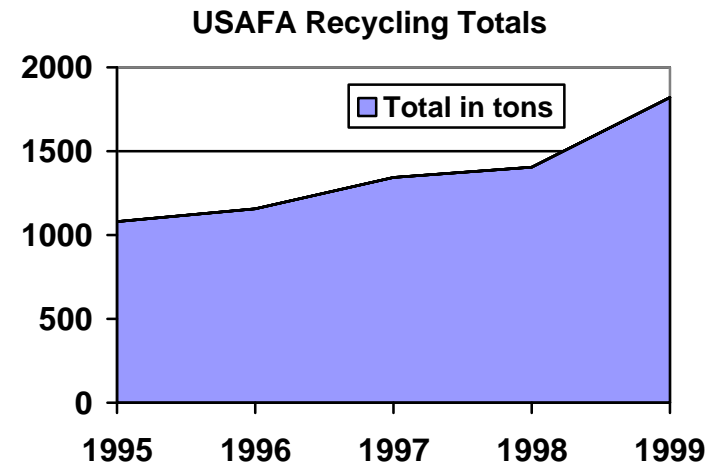


Bob Tomlinson eliminated the need to store extremely hazardous chlorine gas by replacing chlorine with calcium hypochlorite, a much safer choice.

REDUCTIONS ACHIEVED

Through Bob Tomlinson's efforts, the Academy has achieved impressive pollution prevention reductions:

- ❖ The Academy achieved a 31% solid waste diversion rate, saving \$71,000 in disposal costs in 1999 alone
- ❖ Recycling is up throughout the Academy. The monthly recycling average is 40,000 pounds greater in 1999 as compared to 1997
- ❖ In 1995, the Academy reported 2 chemicals under EPCRA Section 313 (TRI) and 15 under Section 312 (TIER II). In 1999, the Academy reported zero chemicals under EPCRA 313 and 8 under TEIR II, a 47% reduction in the number of reported chemicals!
- ❖ Slashed the usage of the Top 20 hazardous materials from 10,454 pounds in 1997 to 3,843 pounds in 1999, a 65% reduction
- ❖ Reached a 56% reduction in pesticide usage since the 1993 baseline (usage went up briefly in 1998 as a result of a severe algae outbreak, but continued its downward trend by 1999).
- ❖ Gained monumental reductions in hazardous waste disposal, from 46,200 pounds in 1996 to 16,400 pounds in 1999—a 64.5% reduction!
- ❖ Reduced the cost of performing Pollution Prevention Opportunity Assessments by \$90,000 for the Air Force Academy
- ❖ Cut the hazardous material approval process time from 5 days to 1 day!
- ❖ Helped Air Force Space Command save \$200,000 in FY99 by switching to a more effective hazardous material tracking system
- ❖ Instituted material substitutions and process improvements that dropped air emissions 25% since 1997



Bob works with the Academy's recycling manager to put on an annual recycling awareness fair. The fair encourages residents to take advantage of recycling opportunities on the Academy and includes displays showcasing recycled-content products.

AWARDS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Tomlinson certainly has demonstrated excellence in all he does. His dedication to his job has earned him extensive recognition:

- ❖ Air Force Academy Civilian of the Quarter for July-September 1999
- ❖ Member of the Air Force Academy Recycling Team that won the General Thomas D. White Environmental Recycling Team Excellence Award for 1998
- ❖ Recognized for his contributions to the pollution prevention video project with EPA Region VIII and Fort Carson. The project won EPA's Excellence in Communication Award in 1998
- ❖ Honorable Mention in the 1997 White House "Closing the Circle" Awards for hazardous waste recycling achievements
- ❖ The Academy was named One of the Top 3 "HazMat Pharmacies" in the 1996 Air Force Inspector General Eagle Look review
- ❖ Recognized for his role in the EPA Region VIII, DOE, Air Force Academy "Sustainable Design Symposium," which was nominated for an EPA Innovation Award in 1997
- ❖ Founding member of the Colorado Interagency Pollution Prevention Network
- ❖ Member of the Colorado Pollution Prevention Partnership, a group composed of regulatory agencies, federal, state and local agencies, and private industry from all parts of Colorado



“Bob Tomlinson is completely dedicated to eliminating pollution at the Air Force Academy. He hasn’t left any stone unturned, from working through the HazMat Pharmacy to find products that don’t harm our environment and protect our workers to joining with our architects and engineers to incorporate sustainable elements in our new construction projects. He is a truly unique and motivated individual.”

**- Lieutenant General Tad Oelstrom, Superintendent
United States Air Force Academy**

BACKGROUND

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POSITION DESCRIPTION

Mr. Tomlinson is the US Air Force Academy's Pollution Prevention Manager. He is a key member of the Academy's Integrated Hazardous Materials Management Team, a cross-functional team that pursues and implements chemical reductions, material substitutions and process improvements to reduce pollution. He manages the Compliance through Pollution Prevention program, the Affirmative Procurement program, oversees the Chemical Reuse program, serves as the hazardous materials tracking system administrator, and conducts pollution prevention training.

Since coming to the Academy in 1995, he helped launch the Academy's highly touted Hazardous Materials Pharmacy, made significant improvements in reducing pollution throughout the Academy, raised awareness of green purchasing and environmental sustainability, instituted pollution prevention training, formed a hazardous material management team, and expanded partnerships. Bob Tomlinson never settles for the status quo but he presses forward each day to protect the Academy's pristine natural environment.

“The work I do to promote pollution prevention makes me feel like a salesman. Because in pollution prevention you have to convince everyone why they should do something or why they need to do it differently. I hope I have incorporated pollution prevention in everyone’s everyday

- Bob Tomlinson, Pollution Prevention Manager
U.S. Air Force Academy

